



# CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

## 24-HOUR REPORT

15 APRIL 2021

### (U) CALIFORNIA

#### (U) Sacramento – CHP Finds 81-Pounds of Meth and 11-Pounds of Fentanyl During Traffic Stop

(U) California Highway Patrol (CHP) Officers seized a large stash of methamphetamine and fentanyl tablets in a traffic stop. CHP-Valley Division said in a Facebook post that an officer recently pulled over a speeding suspect. During the stop, however, the officer reportedly noted several undisclosed factors that led him to suspect the people inside were involved in some sort of illicit activity. A K9 unit gave a positive alert about smelling drugs. A search of the car uncovered a large stash of drugs: about 81-pounds of methamphetamine and 11-pounds of fentanyl tablets. The two people who were inside the car were arrested on several drug charges.

SOURCE: 14 April 2021, [CBS Sacramento](#)

#### (U) San Diego – Dozens Charged in Massive Investigation into Illicit Gambling Parlors

(U) A massive investigation into dozens of illegal gambling parlors ended with a series of raids by the FBI and charges against 47 people, according to a series of federal indictments. The indictments focus on alleged casino owners and several of their employees, who are accused of running the day-to-day operations, from providing security to managing the bank roll to paying out winnings. Several people also face charges of selling or distributing methamphetamine to patrons, as well as being felons in possession of guns. More than 450 law enforcement officers, led by the FBI's Violent Crimes Task Force-Gang Group, fanned out across East San Diego neighborhoods for the takedown, searching 24 locations and arresting 35 people. Fifteen of the people arrested are part of the federal indictments while 20 were taken into custody on state offenses.

SOURCE: 14 April 2021, [San Diego Tribune](#)

### (U) NATIONAL

#### (U) District of Columbia – US Sanctions Russian Government's Attempts to Influence 2020 US Elections

(U) Washington – The US Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) took sweeping action against 16 entities and 16 individuals who attempted to influence the 2020 US presidential election at the direction of the leadership of the Russian Government. This announcement follows the Intelligence Community's (IC) "Assessment of Foreign Threats to the 2020 US Federal Elections." The IC assessment addresses the intentions and efforts of key foreign actors, including Russia, to influence or interfere with the US elections and undermine public confidence in the election process. Russia employed a system of government officials, disinformation outlets, and companies to covertly influence US voters and spread misinformation about US political candidates and US election processes and institutions.

SOURCE: 15 April 2021, [US Treasury Press Release](#)

#### (U) District of Columbia – FBI Arrests Man for Assaulting Capitol Police Officer

(U) Washington – A man has been arrested for assaulting a Capitol Police officer during the 6 January 2021 insurrection at the US Capitol. A criminal complaint was unsealed against Paul Russell Johnson, 36. Johnson was arrested pursuant to a complaint and made his initial appearance in court yesterday. The complaint charges Johnson with inflicting bodily injury on certain officers, obstruction of law

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enforcement during civil disorder, obstruction of justice and Congress, engaging in physical violence in a restricted building or grounds, and acts of physical violence in the Capitol grounds or buildings.

SOURCE: 14 April 2021, [WTKR](#)

### **(U) Maryland – Foreign Intelligence Service Exploiting Known Vulnerabilities to Compromise US**

(U) Fort Meade – The National Security Agency (NSA), the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), and the FBI jointly released a Cybersecurity Advisory to expose ongoing Russian Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) exploitation of five publicly known vulnerabilities. This advisory is being released alongside the US Government's formal attribution of the SolarWinds supply chain compromise and related cyber espionage campaign. The product to highlight additional tactics, techniques, and procedures being used by SVR so that network defenders can take action to mitigate against them. Mitigation against these vulnerabilities is critically important as US and allied networks are constantly scanned, targeted, and exploited by Russian state-sponsored cyber actors.

SOURCE: 15 April 2021, [NSA](#)

### **(U) Ohio – Violent Mob Breaks into Police Station Pepper Spray Police Officer**

(U) Columbus – People protesting recent deaths by law enforcement officers were able to briefly get inside Columbus Division of Police Headquarters. Members of the group were at a park earlier for a vigil and balloon release. Then, a crowd of about 50 demonstrators gathered outside police headquarters and marched around the immediate area. A spokesperson for the division said the event was peaceful until the group came back to headquarters, and some of them become aggressive and started to pull on the doors, getting past the first set. Police asked the demonstrators to leave, and one officer was pepper sprayed. The officers then responded by spraying the group, Fuqua said.

SOURCE: 13 April 2021, [Gateway Pundit](#)

### **(U) Oregon – Rioters Vandalize Police Cruisers in Precinct Parking Lot**

(U) Portland – During a protest, a group of rioters allegedly cut through the chain link fence and severely damaged several police cruisers and flattened tires. Responding officers arrived to find that suspects cut through a chain link fence to access a parking lot, then broke out windows and slashed tires of several police vehicles. The suspects fled prior to police arrival.

SOURCE: 14 April 2021, [Gateway Pundit](#)

### **(U) Texas – Suspect in Custody After Police Officer Ambushed and Shot at Traffic Stop**

(U) Burleson – A man was captured yesterday afternoon after he allegedly shot a police officer during an ambush at a traffic stop. Jerry Don Elders, 39, allegedly fired multiple shots at Burleson police officer Joshua Lott when he approached Elders' car for an equipment violation. Lott, who joined the department in 2017, is alert and last was listed in stable condition. Authorities believe he was shot three times. After the shooting, Elders and two others who were in the car with him fled. Elders was later found in a wooded area near Gainesville, Texas.

SOURCE: 14 April 2021, [ABC News](#)

### **(U) Virginia – Oath Keepers Likely Stashed Weapons Prior to US Capitol Riot**

(U) Arlington – Members of the Oath Keepers paramilitary group likely stored weapons at a hotel, as part of their plan to have an armed rapid-response force during the 6 January 2021 insurrection. Prosecutors revealed photos of an alleged Oath Keeper carrying what looks like a weapon inside a Comfort Inn. Kenneth Harrelson has been charged in the Oath Keepers conspiracy, likely contributed weapons, and brought what appeared to be at least one rifle case into the hotel. Harrelson is one of 12 defendants in the case, the most prominent case tied to the insurrection.

SOURCE: 14 April 2021, [CNN](#)

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## **(U) INTERNATIONAL**

### **(U) Croatia – American Charged with COVID-19 Relief Fraud Arrested**

(U) Zagreb – Police arrested a man wanted in the US on fraud charges for allegedly receiving more than \$7.2 million in COVID-19 relief funds after concocting hundreds of nonexistent employees on loan applications. The man was identified as Don Cisternino, 45, who was detained on an international warrant on the border with Slovenia. A federal grand jury in Orlando handed down an indictment in February 2021 charging him with two counts of wire fraud, three counts of aggravated identity theft and three counts of illegal monetary transactions. If convicted, he faces more than 70-years in prison.

SOURCE: 14 April 2021, [Associated Press](#)

**(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.**

**(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL [STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV](mailto:STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV), OR CALL 916-636-2900.**

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